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PLANNING PROCESS

OPS 010



PURPOSE OF PLANNING

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“Planning is the art of envisioning a desired end state and determining effective ways of achieving that goal.”

MCWP 5-1

Whether done at strategic, operational, or tactical level the key functions of planning are to:

- **Direct and coordinate actions**
- **Develop a shared situational awareness**
- **Generate common expectations about how actions will evolve and how they will effect the desired outcome**
- **Support the exercise of initiative**
- **Shape the thinking of the planners**



TENETS OF MCPP

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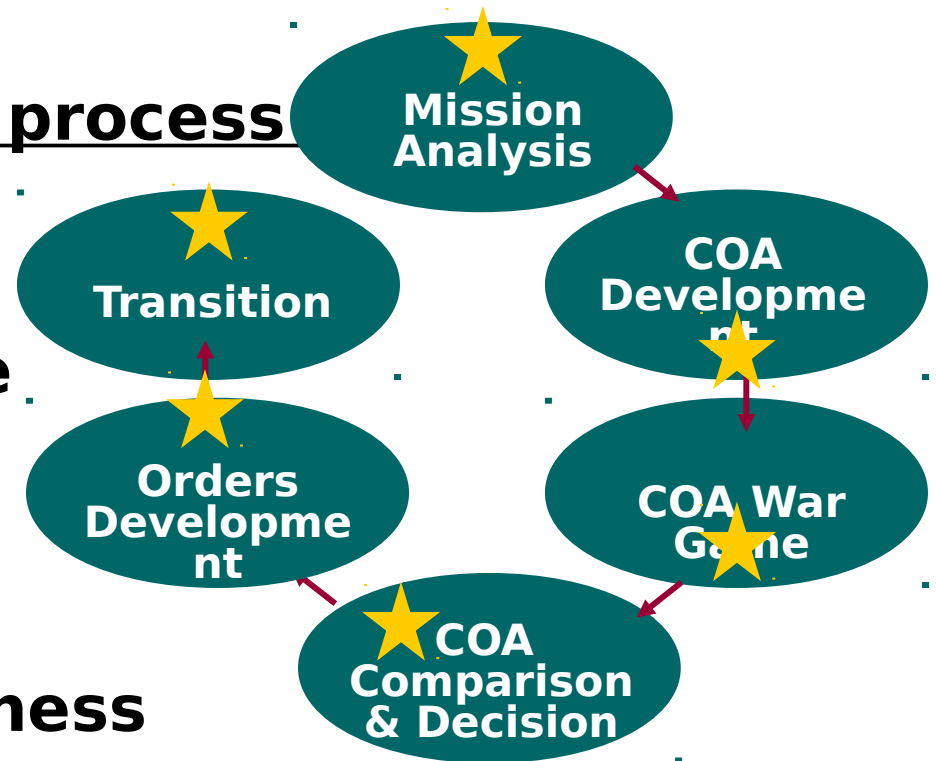
- **Top-Down Planning**
- **Single Battle Concept**
- **Integrated Planning**



TOP-DOWN PLANNING

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- Planning is a fundamental responsibility of command
- Commander drives the process
- Keys:
 - Intent
 - Planning guidance
- Commander gains:
 - Knowledge
 - Situational awareness
 - Support for his decision making

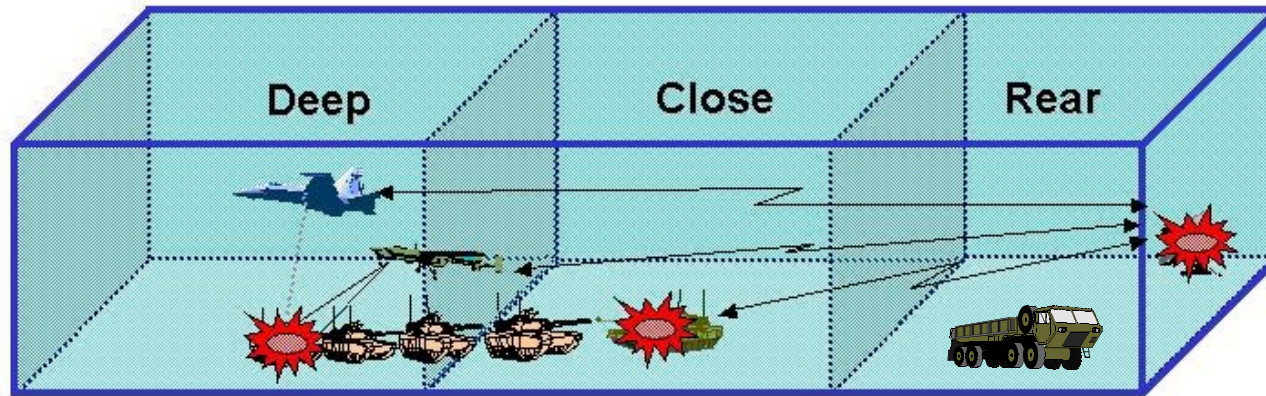




THE SINGLE BATTLE

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Single Battle



**Action *anywhere* is related
To action *everywhere***

The Single Battle is the Power of the MAGTF:

- Promotes Unity of Effort
- Centralized planning controls and coordinates efforts of all available forces
- Decentralized execution generates tempo



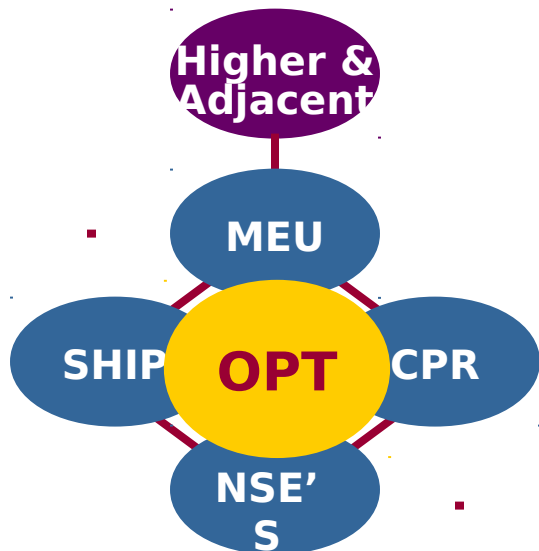
INTEGRATED PLANNING

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INTEGRATED
STAFFS



INTEGRATED
WARFIGHTING
FUNCTIONS



- Command and Control
- Intelligence
- Fires
- Maneuver
- Logistics
- Force Protection

- Disciplined Approach to Planning
- Helps to -
 - Reduce Omissions
 - Share Information



Commander

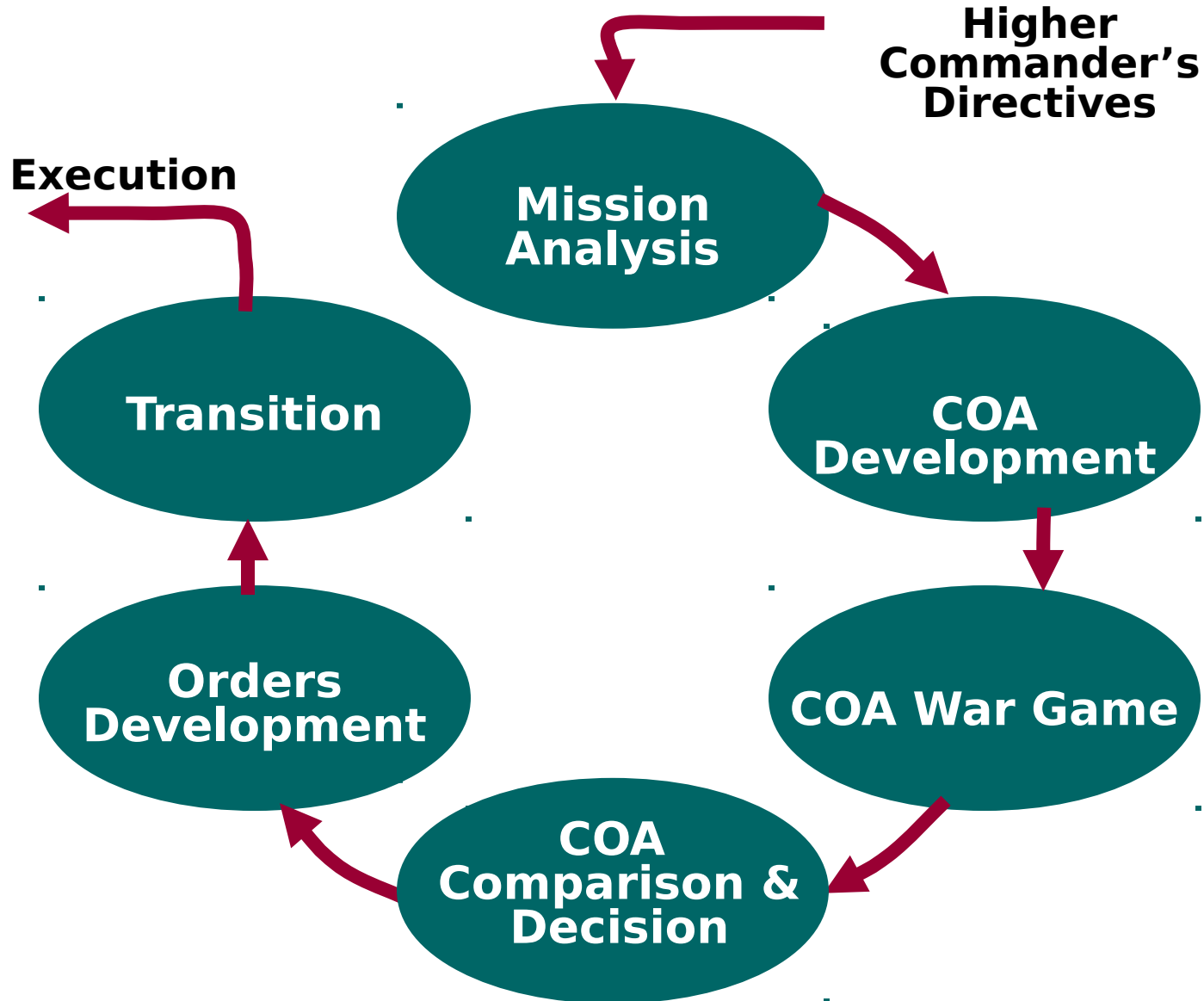


Staff



MARINE CORPS PLANNING PROCESS

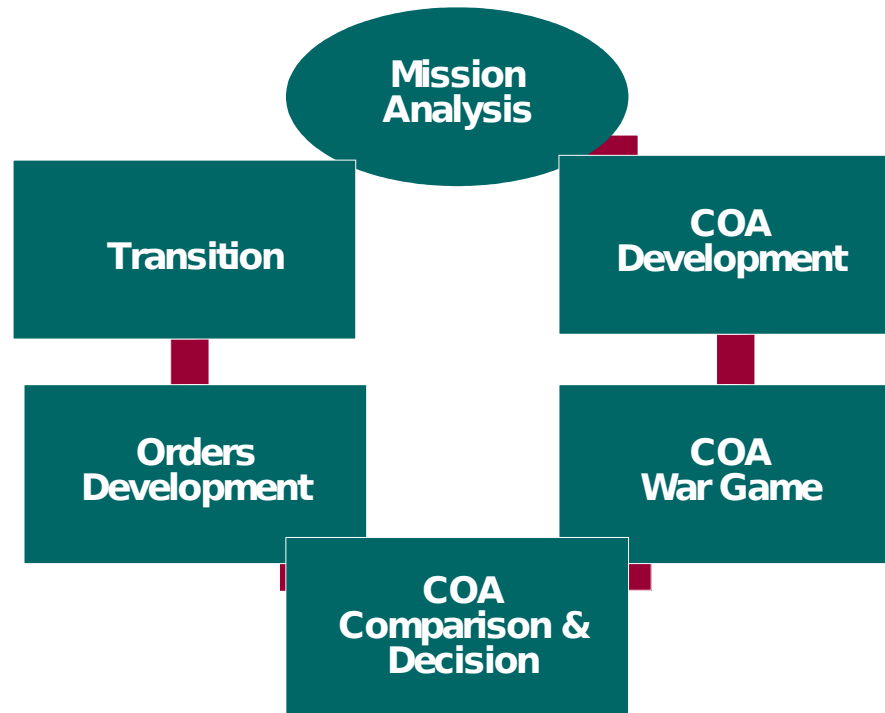
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MISSION ANALYSIS

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Purpose: "...to review and analyze orders, guidance and other information that is provided by higher headquarters in order to produce a unit mission statement."



MISSION ANALYSIS

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Input:

- **HHQ**
 - *Order*
 - *Intel products*
- **Commander's Orientation**
 - **CBAE**
 - **Battlespace**
 - **Intent**
 - **COG**
 - **CCIR**
 - **Initial Guidance**

Process:

- **Information requirements**
- **Assumptions**
- **Constraints / restraints**
- **Identify tasks**
- **Draft mission statement**

Staff
Estimates

Output:

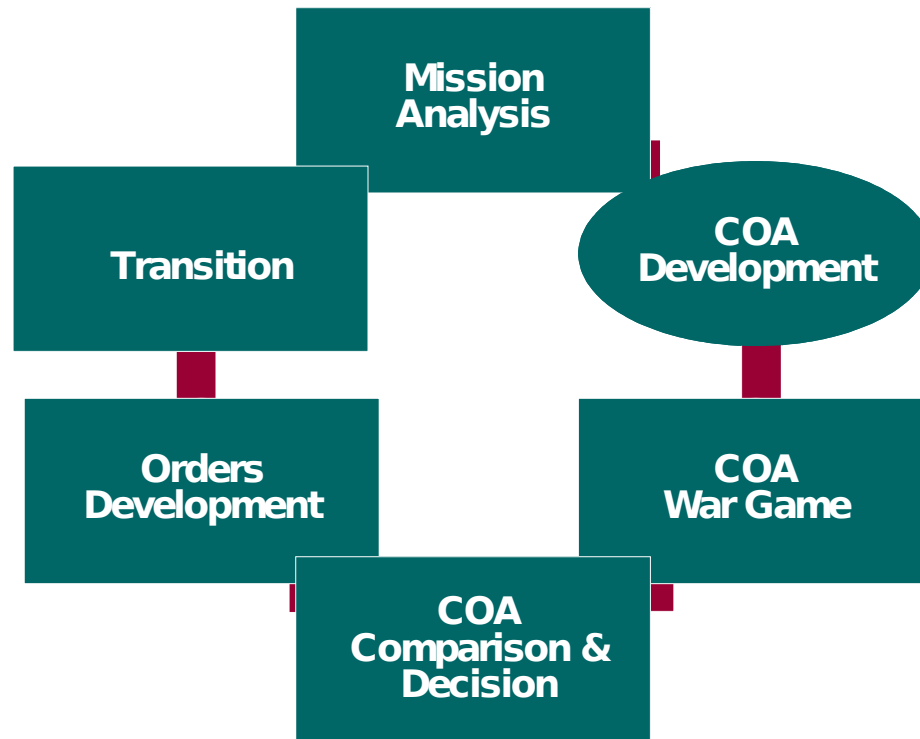
- **Mission statement**
- **Refined intent**
- **Planning guidance**
- **Warning Order**

IPB



COA DEVELOPMENT

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Purpose: "...to generate options for follow-on wargaming and comparison that satisfy the mission, commander's intent and guidance of the commander."



COA DEVELOPMENT

EWT
G

Process:

- Develop initial COAs
- **Commander's input**
- COA refinement
 - Graphic & Narrative
- COA criteria
 - Suitable
 - Distinguishable
 - Feasible
 - Acceptable
 - Complete

Input:

- Mission Statement
- **Refined intent**
- **Planning guidance**

Output:

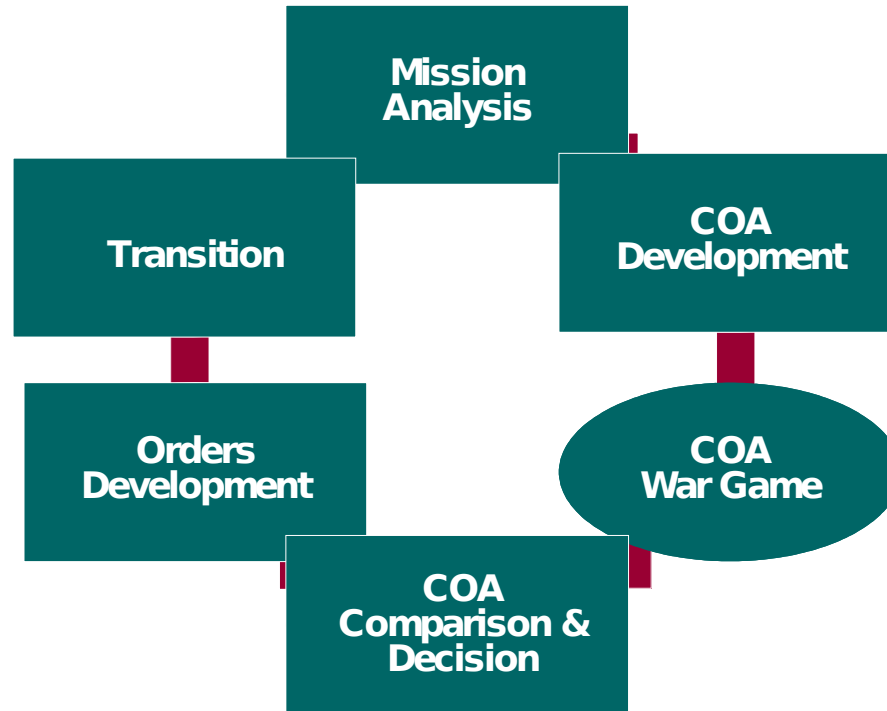
- **Designated COAs for war game**
- **War game guidance**
- **Evaluation criteria**

IPB



COA WAR GAME

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Purpose: “...assists planners in identifying strengths and weaknesses, associated risks, and asset shortfalls for each friendly course of action.”



COA WAR GAME

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Process:

- Conduct COA War Game
- Refine estimates
- Refine IPB products
 - DST
 - HVT/HPT

Input:

- Designated COAs for war game
- War game guidance
- Evaluation criteria

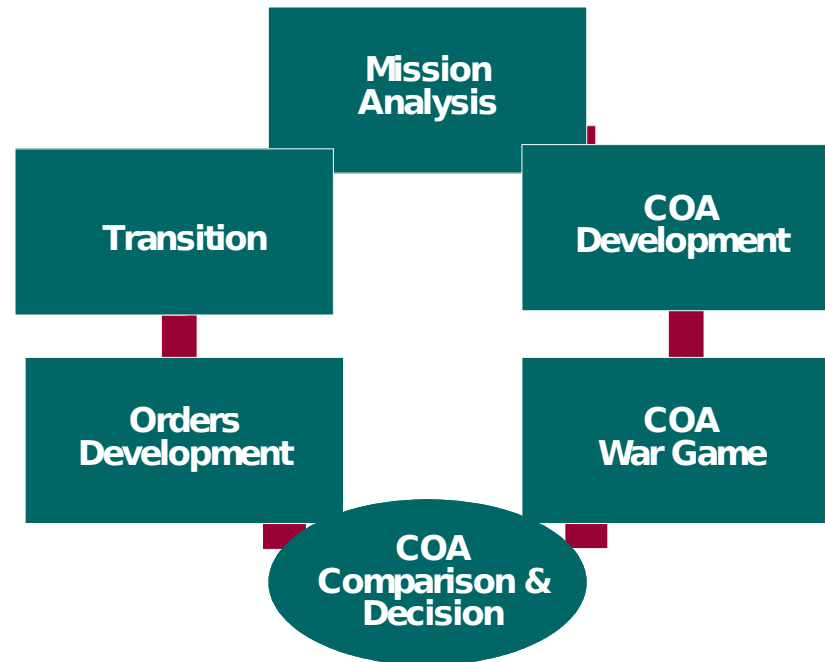
Output:

- Wargamed COAs graphic & narrative
- Information on commander's evaluation criteria

IPB



COA COMPARISON & DECISION EWT G



Purpose: “...the commander evaluates all friendly courses of action against established criteria, evaluates them against each other, and selects the course of action that he believes will best accomplish the mission.”



COA COMPARISON & DECISION EWT G

Process:

- Perform COA evaluation
- Perform COA comparison
- **Commander's decision**
- Prepare CONOPS

Input:

- Wargamed COAs graphic & narrative
- Information on commander's evaluation criteria

Output:

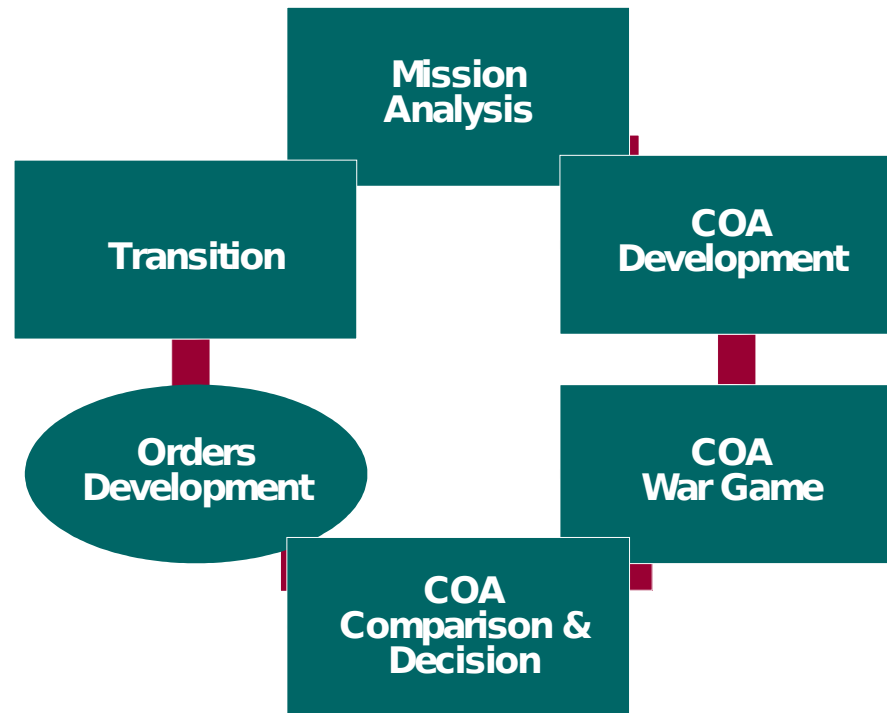
- CONOPS
- *Warning Order*

IPB



ORDERS DEVELOPMENT

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Purpose: “...communicates the commander’s intent, guidance and decisions in a clear, useful form that is easily understood by those executing the order.”



ORDERS DEVELOPMENT

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Process:

- Prepare OPORD/OPLAN
- Orders reconciliation
- Orders crosswalk
- **Commander's approval**

Input:

- Mission statement
- **Commander's intent**
- Task organization
- CONOPS
- Specified & implied tasks

Output:

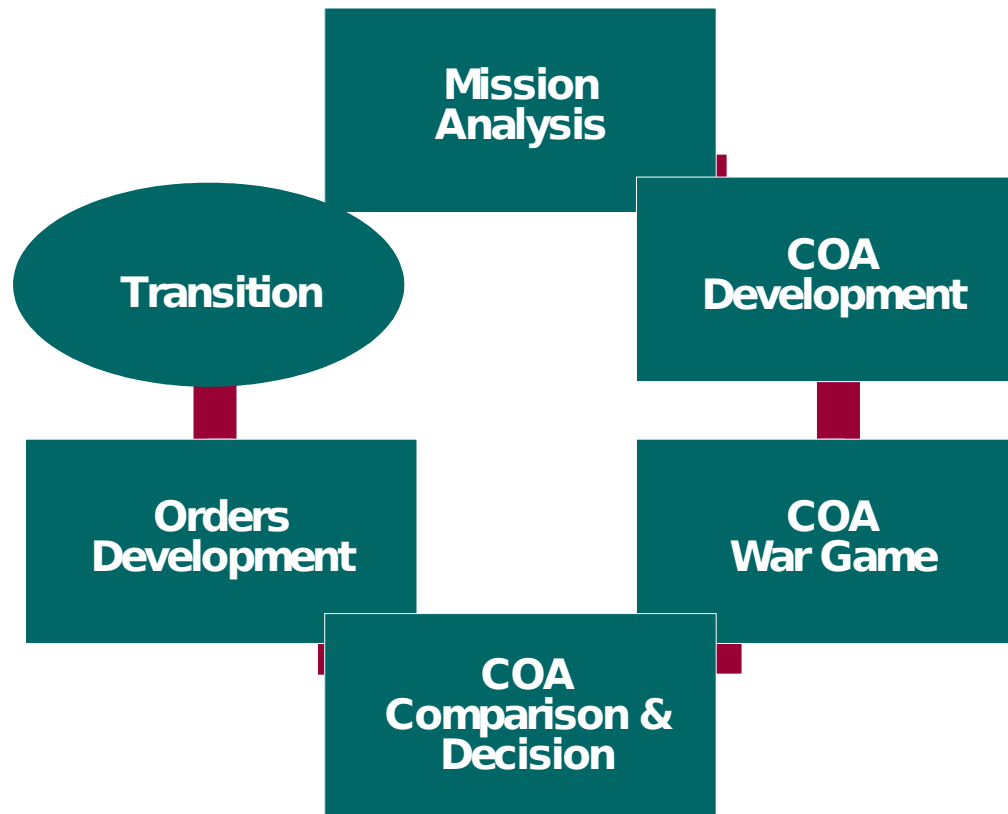
- **OPORD/OPLAN**
- **OPTASK AMPHIB**

IPB



TRANSITION

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Purpose: “...to provide a successful shift from planning to execution.”

-- MCWP 5-1



TRANSITION

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Process:

- Transition brief
- Internal/External
 - Drills
 - **Confirmation brief**

Input:

- *OPORD/OPLAN*

IPB

Output:

Subordinate commanders and staffs that are prepared to:

- Execute the order & possible branches
- Plan sequels



PROCESS COMPARISON

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